

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A device comprising at least a first component and a second component adjoining each other over a length and having different thermal coefficients of expansion, said first and second components being attached to each other by first attachment means at a first position and by second attachment means at a second position, spaced from said first position along said length, said first and second components being relatively fixed at said first position, wherein at least said first component is formed so that, at said second position, said first component can move relative to said second component in a direction of said length, independently from a contact force (F_z) between said components at said second position.
2. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein said first component comprises one or more flexible limb elements having respective free ends having means for attachment to said second component.
3. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 2, wherein said first component comprises a plurality of walls defining an enclosure and said flexible limb elements extend from said walls into the interior of said enclosure.
4. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 3, wherein said flexible limb elements comprise a first limb element and a second limb element, and said plurality of wall comprise a first wall and a second wall opposed to said first wall, wherein said first limb element extends inwardly from said first wall and said second limb element extends inwardly from said second wall.
5. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 1 comprising two second positions, one at each end of said first component, with said first position being arranged at a central location.
6. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein said first component is divided into a plurality of separate sub-components along a length thereof.
7. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein one or both

of said components are capable of bowing in a direction perpendicular to adjoining surfaces of said components and the total amount of bow is equal to or less than 0.02% of said adjoining length.

8. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 7, wherein the total amount of bow is equal to or less than 0.02% over a range of operating temperatures of said device.

9. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein said first component is made of plastics material and said second component is made of metal.

10. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 9, wherein said first component is a vacuum guide member of a printer and said second component is a chassis of said printer.

11. (Previously presented) A device comprising first and second components adjoining each other over a length and having different thermal coefficients of expansion, the components being attached to each other at a first position and at a second position, spaced from said first position along said length, wherein said first and second attachment positions are relatively displaceable in a direction of said length, independently from a contact force (F_z) between said components at said second position.

12. (New) A printer device comprising a plurality of vacuum guides that are disposed along a length of a printer chassis and adjoined to said printer chassis, said printer chassis and said vacuum guides having different thermal coefficients of expansion, each of said vacuum guides being attached to said printer chassis by first attachment means at a first position and by second attachment means at a second position, spaced from said first position along said length, said first and second components being relatively fixed at said first position, wherein said vacuum guides are formed so that, at said second positions thereof, said vacuum guides can move relative to said printer chassis in a direction of said length, independently from a contact force (F_z) between said vacuum guides and said printer chassis at said second positions.